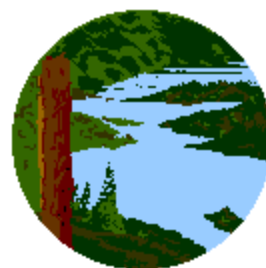


Part III:

Operating Procedures for Salmonid Habitat Projects



PURPOSE

The purpose of the lead entity¹ program for salmon recovery in the Chehalis Basin is to work together to identify, develop, and review habitat work proposals that ultimately result in a prioritized habitat project list² for WRIA's 22 and 23. To accomplish this purpose, the lead entity shall establish a committee³ that consists of representative interests of counties, cities, conservation districts, tribes, environmental groups, business interests, landowners, citizens, volunteer groups, regional fish enhancement groups, and other habitat interests. The purpose of the committee is to provide a citizen-based evaluation of the projects proposed to promote improving salmon habitat. The committee will be known as the Technical Review Team (TRT). The TRT may provide the lead entity with organizational models that may be used in establishing the committees. The TRT will assure that the proposed projects address the habitat's limiting factors and clearly benefit wild salmon. Working with the lead entity, the TRT will identify those projects that have met the necessary and sufficient/critical conditions for salmonid habitat restoration in WRIA's 22 and 23, and

¹ Counties, cities, and tribal governments must jointly designate, by resolution or by letters of support, the area for which a habitat project list is to be developed and the lead entity that is to be responsible for submitting the habitat project list. No project included on a habitat project list shall be considered mandatory in nature and no private landowner may be forced or coerced into participation in any respect. The lead entity may be a county, city, conservation district, special district, tribal government, or other entity.

² "Habitat project list" is the list of projects resulting from the critical pathways methodology under [RCW 77.85.060\(2\)](#). Each project on the list must have a written agreement from the landowner on whose land the project will be implemented. Projects include habitat restoration projects, habitat protection projects, habitat projects that improve water quality, habitat projects that protect water quality, habitat-related mitigation projects, and habitat project maintenance and monitoring activities.

³ The lead entity shall establish a committee that consists of representative interests of counties, cities, conservation districts, tribes, environmental groups, business interests, landowners, citizens, volunteer groups, regional fish enhancement groups, and other habitat interests. The purpose of the committee is to provide a citizen-based evaluation of the projects proposed to promote salmon habitat. The technical review team may provide the lead entity with organizational models that may be used in establishing the committees.

rank those projects accordingly. The TRT will also identify those projects that failed to meet the necessary and sufficient/critical conditions; however, these will not be ranked. The recommendations of the TRT will be forwarded to the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) for final consideration and the CBP will recommend a list of prioritized projects to the lead entity.

This section discusses the methods the TRT will use to come to a final ranking of habitat restoration projects. The CBP will consider this information and forward all projects to the lead entity for their concurrence.

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

The sponsor will complete a salmonid habitat restoration work proposal form, a sample is attached at the end of this section. A completed electronic copy will be submitted to the lead entity prior to the proposal due date.

SALMONID HABITAT RESTORATION PROPOSALS

The project sponsor will complete the salmonid habitat restoration work proposal provided by the lead entity. Its primary purpose is to ensure salmonid habitat projects are appropriate within a watershed context and sequenced in a logical manner following the Critical Pathways Methodology, RCW 77.85.060. Some of the key elements addressed in the proposal form are:

- Identify and coordinate with other projects/efforts
- Identify potential projects
- Develop budget timelines
- Identify affected salmonid species
- Identify limiting factors being addressed
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Guidelines

The project sponsor will submit the completed salmonid habitat work proposal form, a project site map, and a project vicinity map to the lead entity prior to submission for funding.

DATA ENTRY FOR HABITAT RESTORATION

After receiving the form, the lead entity will enter it into the salmonid habitat work schedule database. All projects submitted to the lead entity for the funding round will be reported to the CBP and will be identified as those projects meeting the necessary conditions.

WATERSHED LIMITING FACTORS

Potential project sponsors should consider the Watershed Critical Factors for each watershed when proposing habitat projects. In summary, the critical factors that each proposal must address, if appropriate, are:

- Fish Passage
- Water Quality
- Channel Stability
- Floodplain Condition
- Water Quantity
- Current In-stream LWD (Quantity)
- Riparian
- Sediment: Spawning Gravel Quantity
- Sediment: Spawning Gravel Quality
- Biological Processes

SALMONID HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT LIST DEVELOPMENT

By having TRT consider the same elements, a process is established that allows for some commonality in considering each project. Each TRT member will evaluate and report their ranking. The product of this process is a list that will be ranked by the TRT.

This will be known as the Salmonid Habitat Restoration Project List. Ultimately, the list is forwarded to the CBP for a final recommendation to the lead entity for acceptance.

GROUND RULES FOR THE CBP AND THE TRT

The lead entity will receive competitive proposals from sponsors in WRIA's 22 and 23. In order to assure all sponsors are treated fair, the following ground rules will be followed:

- ✓ Proposals must be submitted in accordance with the schedule established by the lead entity and the CBP for each SRFB funding round. Proposals not received by the lead entity by the deadlines established will not be considered for that review cycle or the funding period. The salmonid habitat restoration work proposal form and SRFB applicable application must be completed prior to, or as a part of, the proposal submittal, as determined by the lead entity.
- ✓ Prioritization established by the lead entity and the CBP is critical towards funding projects. Project sponsors shall advise the lead entity that they are, or intend to, pursue other sources of funding. It shall also be the responsibility of the project sponsor to advise the lead entity that a project is funded and should be removed from the habitat work schedule.
- ✓ The CBP and/or TRT may have members who are submitting proposals. Reviewers are not required to abstain from reviewing their projects; however, each member is expected to conduct an unbiased review of all proposals. If a reviewer stands to gain personally should a proposal be funded, they must excuse themselves from the process. If a reviewer is uncertain, they should disclose to the other reviewers their concern(s) and the group will decide by consensus if that reviewer should be excused.
- ✓ The lead entity will organize the TRT, solicit projects, and work with the TRT to develop a proposed Habitat Restoration Project List. The list shall be developed

pursuant to RCW 77.85.050. The list shall then be submitted to the CBP for consideration and final recommendation to the lead entity.

- ✓ The CBP has the authority to reject proposals for cause, but must relate the cause directly to SRFB criteria.
- ✓ After the CBP prioritization, the scope and budget for the project cannot change.
- ✓ Projects submitted for consideration must address recommendations of the Chehalis Basin Plan for Habitat Restoration, habitat limiting factors, watershed analysis, or other supporting data based upon actual on-site survey and technical data.
- ✓ Each reviewer will rank every project, which will be given to the lead entity for tabulation. The final ranking will be determined by simple average of all scores of the members present. No absentee votes are allowed. There will be no minimum membership quorum requirement.

Insert sample copy of salmonid habitat work proposal form

Chehalis Basin WRIA's 22 and 23

Habitat Project Scoring Sheet

Project Name _____

Project # _____ Scorer # _____

All scores are base on information provided in the individual project proposal.

1. Project's benefit to salmon.

Point Range: 0-50

Category #1 Score:

- What are the anticipated results of the project in regards to the species and life history stages that will be affected, type of habitat, and/or changes to ecological processes?

<u>Low</u>						<u>Moderate</u>						<u>High</u>
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		

- Does the project address a salmonid species listed (or proposed for listing) under ESA?

<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
0	10

- Does the project address a salmonid species categorized as critical or depressed by WDFW's SASSI/SaSI report?

<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
0	10

- Does the project address multiple salmonid species?

<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
0	10

- Does the project address documented high priority limiting habitat factors for that subbasin?

<u>Low Priority</u>	<u>Medium Priority</u>	<u>High Priority</u>
0	5	10

2. Technical process used for identifying this project.

Point Range: 0 - 60

Category #2 Score:

- What is the subbasin's priority ranking?

<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>High</u>
0	15	30

- To what degree does the project reduce, reverse, or alleviate one or more limiting factors and prevent the creation of new limiting factors.

<u>Low</u>					<u>Medium</u>					<u>High</u>
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- Are the most important (highest priority) limiting factors addressed first? Does this project fit into a sequence of actions necessary for salmon recovery through Critical Pathways Methodology?

<u>No</u>	<u>Moderate</u>			<u>High</u>
0	5	10	15	20

3. Project approach to protection or restoration cost-effective and well designed and integration with other salmon recovery efforts.

Point Range: 0 - 55

Category #3 Score:

- Is the project coordinated with region-wide prioritization effort? Does the proposal clearly articulate project/basin coordination?

<u>Not at all</u>				<u>Moderately</u>				<u>Very well</u>		
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- How well does the project complement other projects and programs for salmon recovery in this watershed?

<u>Not at all</u>				<u>Moderately</u>				<u>Very well</u>		
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- Does the project leverage volunteer activities, contribution of materials and labor, and other cost-saving efficiencies?

<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
0	5

- Is the cost of the project reasonable to achieve the anticipated outcomes (benefits)? Is this the least expensive and most cost effective approach to achieve the desired outcome?

<u>Not Reasonable</u>		<u>Reasonable</u>	<u>Very Reasonable</u>
0	5	10	15 20

- To what degree does the project improve community support for salmon recovery?

<u>Not at all</u>					<u>Moderately</u>				<u>Very well</u>	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4. Certainty of success.

Point Range: 0 - 40

Category #4 Score:

- Are there uncertainties inherent in this type of project?

<u>Yes</u>					<u>Moderately</u>						<u>No</u>
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

- Does the project sponsor adequately address the obstacles of this project in the description of the proposal? Does the project's design adequately address the obstacles?

No				<u>Moderately</u>					<u>Successfully</u>	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- Is the project's design and/or scope of work complete?

<u>No</u>		<u>Moderately</u>				<u>Complete</u>				
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- Is there funding for future management and/or maintenance of the project site and did the project sponsor identify a responsible party?

<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
0	10

5. Impact on the salmon resource if the project is not done at this time?

Point Range: 0 - 20

Category #5 Score:

- How serious and imminent are the threats to the habitat at the project site (i.e. inherent, ecological, human, conversion, abatable and/or non-abatable threats).

<u>Not Serious</u>				<u>Serious</u>				<u>Critical</u>		
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- How significant will the impact(s) to salmon be if the project is not done at this time?

<u>Not Serious</u>					<u>Serious</u>				<u>Critical</u>		
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Overall Point Range: 0 -225

Total Score:

Projects with acquisition elements shall be evaluated against the following criteria. Acquisition projects that do not fulfill the following criteria shall not be considered high priority projects.

1. Project with acquisition elements must also describe what portion of the property directly benefits salmon?

_____ area directly benefiting salmon

2. Do regulatory controls currently exist to maintain properly functioning salmon habitat? Does the proposed acquisition provide more protection than existing regulatory controls?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

3. Is there an imminent threat to the property proposed for protection? (i.e. currently for sale, preliminary subdivision approval, forest practices permit approval, infrastructure developed, etc.)

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

Non-capital Projects (Assessments & Studies) must address the following criteria. Non-capital projects that do not fulfill the following criteria shall not be considered high priority projects.

1. Does the project lead to the identification, design, and siting of future habitat restoration and protection projects? Will the identified future projects address documented and/or prioritized habitat factors?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes